Neekakshi Devi, Prabin Hazarika, Pradeep Gogoi, Ranjit Das, Rongsenla Marsosang, Syed Wassim, and W. Tikendef Singh.

Unproductive Expenditure in the Railways

2823. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways were no exception to the impact of the economic slow down which had been reflected in the loading figures of some Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken for reducing expenditure in the unproductive areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) yes, Sir. Economic slow down in the country has affected the originating loading on the Indian Railways also. Zone-wise proportionate target and provisional loading achieved upto Oct, 2001 is given below:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Railways	Target	Loading(Provisional)
Central	30.20	30.70
Eastern	47.10	43.72
Northern	19.80	19.20
N.E.	1.60	1.38
N.F.	3.65	3.86
Southern	16.10	14.69
S.C.	33.65	33.55
S.E.	109.50	104.95
Western	21.20	21.05
TOTAL	281.35	273.10

Railway's originating loading, being a derived demand, was below the proportionate target up to October, 2001 due to less demand from Core and Non Core sectors.

(d) It is the continuous endeavour of the Railways to ensure that expenditure is incurred judiciously and is kept strictly need based. Railways, inter-alia have been taking the following steps to ensure control of expenditure:-

(i) Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisements, inaugural ceremonies, seminar & workshops, contingent office expenses etc.

(ii) Better manpower management for improving per capita productivity.

(iii) Energy conservation.

(iv) Efficient utilization of assets.

(v) Reduction in equipment failure and accidents.

(vi) Stringent financial and budgetary control through the mechanism of fixation of Spending Limits and monthly budget proportions.

(vii) Cost control, cost reduction and cost effectiveness in all online and off-line activities.

(viii) Improvement in inventory management.

Recruitment of SCs, STs and OBCs in Railways

2824. SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:.

(a) Whether it is a fact that as provided under para 11 Explanatory Notes to DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated the 2nd July, 1997, persons belonging to SCs/STs and OBCs, who are selected on merit, are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies / posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so, the total number of persons belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs selected/recruited/promoted on merit in the Ministry of